

Thone. If 345 were adopted, it would place Nebraska in a position of opposition to the sale, transfer, and other disposition of federal power marketing administration. The state currently has an advantage of receiving a portion of its electrical power from the Western Area Power Administration, this is commonly called WAPA, and is one of the federal power marketing agencies scheduled for sale in 1991. This sale, if it occurs, could be disastrous for the state, cities and towns, and especially for the state's farmers. The sale would require electrical rate increases necessary to generate over \$16 million. Some western Nebraska cities would see rate increases of 286 percent. In Lincoln the impact would be 1.4 million annually, a 2 percent increase in electrical rates. At a time when the farmers of this state are facing the economic hardship that they are, this would just be one more burden for them to overcome. Electric rates increases would also seriously hamper our efforts at economic development and attracting new industry to the state. Ladies and gentlemen, I urge your support of LR 345.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, merely to say that what the president is proposing is privatization and I think it is a good idea and I support it. Therefore, I think that means I oppose the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, I rise to support the resolution. Being from McCook, Nebraska, and in effect a son of Norris, I very strongly oppose the privatization concept when it comes to things that are doing the public purpose good that they were designed to do. There has been no charge of illegality, or overcharges, or gouging, or anything negative in regard to what is in place at the present time. And to sell that for a short-term gain of a few dollars, and sell that future that we are looking forward to for our state, is simply not good business. It is bad politics, it is a political decision, it is not a financial decision. If you look behind the ideas that are behind the privatization move, it is that they are opposed to the public power concept. I very strongly support, personally, the public power concept. I strongly urge you to adopt the resolution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck.